

II. RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

A. Status of the Claims

Claims 1-18 were issued in U.S. Patent No. 6,131,205. Claims 19-31 were added in the Preliminary Amendment filed with the request for reissue on August 6, 2001. Thus, claims 1-31 were pending at the time of the present Action. Claims 19, 27 and 30 were amended in response to the Office Action dated May 2, 2002, to clarify the subject matter of the claims. Claims 27-31 are cancelled herein. Thus, claims 1-26 remain pending.

B. The Claims Are Allowable

The Action rejects claims 27-31 as being obvious over Henschel. In light of the cancellation of claims 27-31 in the present response, it is submitted that the obviousness rejection based on Henschel is moot. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejection based on Henschel be withdrawn.

C. Conclusion

This is submitted to be a complete response to the outstanding Action. Based on the foregoing arguments, the claims are believed to be in condition for allowance; a notice of allowability is therefore respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (817) 551-4321 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Date: March 4, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa J. Schultz
7324 Old Mill Run
Fort Worth, TX 76133
(817) 551-4321

Teresa J. Schultz
Reg. No. 40,526
Attorney for Applicant